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FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

SOUTH AMERICA.

TO JAMES MONROE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

(Continued from page 229.)

The character we bestow upon our brethren of the South would do injustice to the most uncivilized of our Indians. That information is as general among them, as amongst our people, no one, I presume, will pretend; yet, have we made no progress since the American revolution? Let this question be answered. Three generations of freemen have arisen since that period and each has undergone some improvement. I would ask amongst whom began our resistance to Great Britain, by whom was it carried on and directed? Certainly by the intelligent part of the community who moved the uninformed mass, addressing themselves to passions which belong to nature, not education alone, and inculcating ideas which had not before suggested themselves to those who are not in the habit of reading and thinking. Compare the state of general information and public spirit at that time with the present, and it will be found that the balance will be as much in favor of the present, as the actual state of our population, wealth and public improvements. We had many well educated men, especially in the different professions, we had a numerous class in the middle walk of life, that is, possessing a moderate share of wealth, and with sufficient leisure and opportunity for acquiring enough of information to understand and place a proper value upon their rights, and appreciate the advantages of a separation from Great Britain. Has it ever been pretended that such a population is no where to be found in Southern America? I am far from pretending that the great mass of its population is as well prepared as ours was, but let it be recollected that we established at once not only a free government, but the freest that

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had ever been known in the world; it does not follow that because the Southern Americans cannot establish a government within many degrees as free as ours, that they are therefore incapable of any thing but absolute despotism. It would not be difficult to prove that there are some strong features of resemblance in the southern population to our own, and which have a great tendency to qualify them for free government. The means of acquiring affluence, for instance, were sufficient to raise up in every village or district, families sufficiently at ease in their circumstances to acquire some information and to maintain a respectable character; they were every where more locomotive and consequently more thoughtful. They had their professional men as we had, who were necessarily enlightened and were attached to the soil by the ties of birth and by family connexions, and yet could aspire to no public offices or honors. The native priesthood were, with hardly an exception, excluded from the dignities of the church, which were usually bestowed on foreigners. The secular priests so far from being inimical to the cause of independence have been its most active supporters, and what is more, the advocates of the most *liberal principles*. The fact is, that these native priests, who are the sons of the most respectable families, and, in most instances, have little more in reality than the name, are the leaders of their armies, their partizan officers, and engage actively in disseminating political information among the people. These men have, in fact, been long brooding over the emancipation of their country, and many, it is highly probable, have been induced to put on the gown in order the more effectually to conceal their studies. I have been acquainted with several gentlemen, who informed me that long before the present struggle in South America, he was surprised at the liberal sentiments of these people,

and at the extraordinary avidity with which they gathered up every thing which related to our country.

Although incredible pains were taken by the Spanish government to shut out from the colonies all information, and all knowledge of a liberal kind, and all books were proscribed, whose possible tendency, might be to disclose to the Southern Americans, the *important secret that they were men*; yet it was utterly impossible to exclude every kind of learning; some branches were even encouraged in order to divert the attention from more dangerous studies; they had their colleges and seminaries of learning in the principal cities and towns, as well as schools for teaching the first elements; while the sons of many of the more wealthy, as was the case in our own country, were sent abroad. In a philosophical point of view, there is nothing so vain as this attempt to force the thoughts into a particular channel like a stream of water. The reading of any book can do little more than set the mind in motion, and when we once begin to think, who but the Divinity can set bounds to our thoughts? The reading of the edict forbidding a book to be read, might give rise to a train of thought infinitely more dangerous than the book itself.

In South America, as well as in the North, subsistence was easily obtained; and from the thinness of the population, men were worth much more than in the thickly settled, starving countries of Europe. There was little or no hereditary nobility to look down upon them, and habituate them to feel an inferiority; such nobility as were in the country, sprigs from old rotten Spanish stocks, were regarded as exotics illy adapted to the climate and soil. In general, each one was the fabricator of his own fortune. The only real distinction of rank was that of superior wealth, talents or office; the exotic nobility who aspired to something more, were no better than strangers, often contemptible in themselves, and secretly despised by all classes of the natives. I do not see that I risk much in boldly asserting, that our

Southern brethren, taken collectively, were better fitted for liberty, Switzerland excepted, than any part of Europe. The shepherds of America are a bold, vigorous, manly race of men, and from the very nature of their employments, serious and contemplative. While the European Spaniards were sinking into indolence, and loosing the manly spirit of independence which formerly placed them above all their neighbors, and which would still show itself under a different government; that spirit was cherished and improving in the colonies, and all that is now wanting, is to direct it to a noble purpose. The agricultural part of the population, was more free and gained a more easy subsistence, than their European brethren; it was not in the power of Spain to prevent this. The merchants and mechanics of towns, in like manner, from the greater facility of living, had more time for reflection than persons in the same class in countries that are crowded. It is in the nature of things, that there should be more general equality among the natives of the Spanish colonies, than in European countries. Persons there were, it is true, who possessed very large estates, but these were of their own acquiring, or of their immediate ancestors. One of the richest individuals in New Spain, I have been informed, was a few years ago a mule driver. We should fall into the greatest errors, if we formed our opinion of the essential moral state of the colony, by the European state from which it sprang. There are characteristics which run through all the colonies of whatever nation they may be, and an opinion much more accurate may be formed of their character by an attentive examination of our own, than by taking the old state, or mere theory, or the slanders of enemies, as the guide.

The specimens of Southern Americans we have had in this country, within a few years past, are surely not such as to justify the opinions which many of us entertain of the character and capacities of those people. The countries which can produce such men as Carrera, and Gual, are surely not sunk in

brutish ignorance, or incapable of rational self-government. These we have heard to breathe sentiments of manly independence, and of exalted patriotism, which until now were thought to belong only to Greece or Rome. With shame, have I heard these men complain that we regarded all their countrymen as sunk below the rest of their species—that we are entirely unacquainted even with their geography, and that many of us treat their cause with a contemptuous indifference. I blush for the vanity and selfishness of my countrymen, who are unwilling to allow the common attributes of humanity to these generous men, who have offered their lives and fortunes to purchase freedom for their beloved native soil.

Happily for my fellow men, all the efforts of despots will not suffice to arrest the progress of the human mind in America. Spain has adopted a system, calculated to retard the general prosperity of her colonies, she has gratified her cupidity by the most reproachful exactions, yet the vast extent of the new world, and the facility of obtaining subsistence, rendered it impossible to exercise tyranny of a mere personal nature to any great degree. The American has always been a freeman, in spite of tyrannical measures which tended to retard the aggregate prosperity; the individual was free from the very nature of the country which he occupied. Let us not imitate the egotism of the British, who assert that they are the only people in the Universe who can be free. Let us believe that freedom may be enjoyed in more than one form; Switzerland was free, the Italian republics were free, Holland was free, though each in a different form. Southern America, too, will be free, and their is reason to believe, will be free as we are. There is ample reason why we should be cautious, in pronouncing hastily, on the character of our brethren of the south. Has humanity no claim upon us? Is it more than fair, to allow the Patriots at least an opportunity of proving whether they are, or are not, worthy of the glorious privilege of independence? What in-

jury to the world can result from the experiment? Surely no state in which they can be placed, can be worse for the interests of mankind, for the cause of human nature, than a return to the withering grasp of Spain, resolved as she is, rather than not rule, to rule over ruined cities and deserted plains.

The character of old Spain itself, although at present sunk so low, I have already said, was formerly of a very opposite kind. We are wrong in supposing, that the Spaniards are insensible to the charms of liberty, or that they are ignorant of the principles of free government. The Spanish history is full of the noblest traits of patriotism, from the time of Viriato down to that of Palafox. There are at the same time, proofs of the resolution of the people, in opposing the despotic and tyrannical measures of princes. The conduct of the Cortez, and the provincial Juntas, prove that they are not incapable of governing themselves in the most popular forms. The defence of the country in times of the greatest difficulty, was conducted by these assemblies in the most spirited manner, while the *legitimate* sovereign instead of meditating like English Alfred, the means of regaining his kingdom, was busied in the occupation of a woman—a nun—in embroidering petticoats! *Liberty is not even yet extinct among the people of Spain.* The constitution, or form of government, established by them, contained all the finest features of those of England, and the United States, while the colonies at the same moment, breathed sentiments still more free. The friends of humanity entertained hopes that Spain, under a limited monarchy, would assume her former station in Europe; but these hopes were disappointed by the treacherous ingratitude, and bigotry of the miserable creature who now usurps the throne; a throne which he had before renounced, and which was restored to him by his subjects, on conditions that he has basely violated.

The Cortez, and Cabildos have always existed in the Spanish monarchy; they are

popular assemblies which place no inconsiderable share of the government in the hands of the subject, and like the trial by jury in England, have accustomed them to feel something more than cyphers in the state. From the necessity of the thing, these popular assemblies, or councils, were more in use in the colonies than in old Spain; which circumstance taken in conjunction with the greater degree of personal freedom and independence in the colonies, on account of the remoteness of the settlements, must have rendered the people of a very different cast from the slaves of an absolute despotism. It is not so difficult a thing to be free, as some would lead us to believe; it is the natural condition of man—he is forever struggling to return to the state for which he is destined by nature.—On the other hand, slavery is a forced and artificial condition, which can only be maintained by binding the mind and body with vile chains. What is there in nature to prevent the Patriots, after freeing themselves of the foreign despotism put over them, from establishing in time, mild and wholesome governments? They cannot want for information with respect to the true principles of such government; they live in an age sufficiently enlightened on this subject; there is to be found both precept and example; they will have nothing more to do, than to choose such as suit them. Their intercourse with the English and with ourselves, cannot fail to aid them in forming correct opinions on political matters. They may, like us, adopt the free principles of the English government, without the scaffolding which hides and deforms the building; they will not be likely to establish a monarchy from the want of genuine royal blood; for their best families, as with us, can trace their ancestry but little beyond the flood.

It is not always safe to reason from what has been, to what will be. If some parts of the old world have failed in the establishment of free government, this may arise from a thousand causes which cannot operate in the new world; and here,

moreover, there may be a thousand causes favorable to free government, which are no where else to be found. A sapient English writer, asserted that we could establish no permanent government, because we had no lords or royal family, that we must therefore fall into a state of anarchy, for without government, said he, man can no more live than a fish without water to swim in; “admitting it as fact,” replied our venerable Franklin, “that we shall not be able to establish governments of any kind, the consequence does not follow in America, whatever it might in England: the Indians have no government, in the proper sense of the word; many of our remote settlements are without government, excepting such as the majority submits to, by a tacit consent; the colonists, in general, as respects their internal concerns, live under governments that have not the weight of a feather compared to those of Europe.” In fact it is a matter of astonishment to Europeans, on their arrival in this country, to find it entirely destitute of government, for that which they can neither see nor feel, they presume not to exist; and yet I would ask, do they not find themselves equally secure? This state of things arises from circumstances peculiar to the colonies of America and common to them all—circumstances which have operated much more powerfully than our own great wisdom, or the magic of the principles first derived from Britain, and purified in America.

There are facts which speak loudly in favor of the intentions of the South Americans. In all the colonies in which the standard of independence has been raised, a formal appeal has been made to the civilized world, setting forth the causes by which they were actuated. These public declarations are couched in terms similar to our own act of the same kind, and evidently dictated by the same spirit. Their proclamations, their political writings, are such as we might safely own in this country. These cannot have failed to have reached the minds of the young and ardent; and those who are growing up, will cherish

them through life. I have been told by a gentleman who has frequently questioned the boys of the most common class, "what are you?"—"a patriot"—"why are you a patriot?"—"because I will defend my country against invaders, because I do not like that my country should be governed by strangers, and because I wish to be free."—The establishment of newspapers has invariably followed the expulsion of the Spanish authorities; the enlightened and liberal political dissertations with which these papers are filled, furnish sufficient refutation of the slanders of their enemies. Correct notions on political subjects, are, it is true, confined to a smaller number than they were amongst us at the commencement of our political struggle, but the desire to free themselves from foreign power, has as completely taken possession of the great mass of the people. Our constitutions are translated and distributed every where, as well as our best revolutionary writings. Two young lawyers were expressly employed for this purpose, by the government of Venezuela, and sent to Philadelphia, where they executed many translations. It would certainly be very strange, if, in this long protracted struggle, a struggle calculated to rouse all the dormant faculties and energies of man, no advancement should have been made in political knowledge. I will mention another fact, which furnishes additional presumption in favor of the patriots, and which at the same time, cannot but be grateful to every American bosom; it is the spontaneous affection and esteem, uniformly, and on all occasions, manifested towards the citizens and government of these states. The Americans are hailed as brothers, they are admired, they are received with unbounded confidence, the success and prosperity of the United States, is their continued theme, and it is the topic which keeps alive their resolution, in their most gloomy and trying moments. How easy would it be to secure, forever, the friendship of people so disposed? How much is in our power, in shaping the character of nations destined to act so impor-

tant a part in the affairs of the world! Any considerable changes for the better, in the governments of Europe is, for the present, hopeless, and cannot be effected but by slow degrees; moreover, it is not wise policy in us, to concern ourselves about them; but it will be inexcusable in us, to remain indifferent as to the nature of the government of our American neighbors. The value of a house depends not a little upon the neighborhood in which it stands; our situation may be better or worse, from the character of those who adjoin us—surrounded, fortunately for us, we cannot be. The patriots are well aware, that the individual Americans entertain the most ardent wishes for their success, but they complain that our government is cold towards them, as if ashamed to own them—they are unable to assign the reason why, in a republic, the government should be indifferent and the people animated by the most anxious interest.

FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

FEMALE EDUCATION.

An impression at once erroneous and injurious to society, prevails in many parts of our country, relative to the importance of education to the female character. This impression has given birth to a system, productive of so little good, that it is totally overwhelmed in the flood of evils which attend it. Nature designed woman to be the companion of man, endowed her with a quickness of apprehension, sensibility of feeling, strength of intellect, which eminently qualify her for that station, if it were not for the injudicious system of education adopted for her. Men of fortune who move in the first circles of society feel a pride in having their sons instructed in science, and polite and useful literature, and at the same time almost totally neglect the education of their daughters. Universities of the first respectability are selected for the education of their sons; while on that of their daughters they bestow no other care than to give them the mere rudiments of an English education, with a little smattering of French, music, and dancing.

With these few advantages, they are ushered into the world at an age when their minds are too little improved and too tender to withstand the allurements of gay so-

ciety and temptations of dissipated life. Flattered and carressed for their beauty, the elegance and grace with which they lead down the dance and the sprightliness of their wit and the gaze of admiration which is bestowed upon them, at an age when flattery operates with its greatest force upon their vanity; they are often seduced from that particular course of conduct so ornamental to the sex. With no knowledge of the arrangements of domestic pursuits or the economy of a family, they often contract engagements for which they are so illy qualified as to embitter their own lives as well as all others around them. The art of deceiving is one of those accomplishments enforced with great energy upon the minds of some females by parents of contracted feelings; but this seldom fails to excite disgust and pity with the enlightened part of the community. Why will a parent thus cruelly treat his daughter? Why will he deny to her those opportunities of cultivating her mind, which are of so much greater value than the decorations of her person, and which alone are calculated to enlist the admiration and respect of the other sex, and afford herself pleasure at a more advanced period in life, when her taste for frivolous accomplishments have entirely subsided, and when the violence of her passion for dissipated amusements shall have been allayed by the cares of a family continually multiplying upon her. Should they not succeed in early life, through the influence of fortune, beauty, and brilliancy of wit; in arriving at the object at which they are particularly directed to aim their attention; a few years will show them the effects of cold disdain, when decayed beauty ceases to possess charms, and when fortune which is ever subject to a thousand casualties, shall have lost its attractions. With no longer a disposition to engage in the giddy dance, and without that education and those mental endowments which command attention they find themselves supplanted in a few years in the estimation of former admirers, and almost totally neglected by them. When daughters are so much less capable than sons of bustling through an uncharitable world, in the events of misfortunes overtaking their best grounded prospects, is not that parent neglectful of his real interests, who denies to his daughters an opportunity of improving themselves in useful and polite literature? Prodigal and lavish in their expenditures upon their sons; parents are too often regardless of that of their daughters. Since woman was designed to be the companion of man, why abridge

the pleasure they ought to feel in each others society by improving the intellect of one in every polite and useful branch of knowledge, and limit the natural capacity of the other by denying her an opportunity in early life of improving her mind? To move with grace in a minuet, and touch with nimble hands the notes of a sonnet, is thought by some to be the *summum bonum* of a lady's education. True, there is something wonderfully attractive in the female figure, something bewitching in her attitudes and graceful movements in a drawing room or assembly, yet there are attractions still more powerful than these upon the enlightened and cultivated part of the community. So contracted are the notions of some parents on female education, that they would not blush in a daughters betraying so much ignorance of the geography of her native country as to bound the state of Ohio by the Atlantic ocean, and pour the waters of the St. Lawrence into the Gulf of Mexico, and empty those of the Mississippi into the Bay of Fundy; and yet would be ready to sink with shame to see her mistake a single step in a hornpipe, or movement in a waltz. Fearful lest they should contract pedantic habits by an acquaintance with books. Parents often deny them the very opportunities of making themselves respected in the society in which they are destined to move, which above all others is best calculated to ensure it. Without being a politician, a lady might be allowed to make herself acquainted with the character of the government of her native country, without being an authoress, she might make herself acquainted with the beauties of rhetoric and composition, without the danger of setting herself up for a philosopher, she might derive pleasure from the study of the elements of philosophy; and without risk of sinking into the pedant she might find amusement as well as advantage in the study of history and geography. We can no more expect that every lady can make herself a Madame de Staël, a Hannah Moore, a lady Morgan, or a Miss Edgeworth, than that every man holding a seat in our national legislature could make himself a Solon—yet there those branches of knowledge, now too much neglected, which are absolutely necessary to give females that rank in the opinion and estimation of the learned and accomplished of the other sex they ought always to hold. Nothing, say some, can appear more hideous, and disgusting than a *learned woman*, and to this opinion may probably be attributed some of those lamentable instances of ignorance, but too

often met with among ladies of the first fashion. It is not my intention to traduce the respectability of their character, but on the contrary to compliment them for those acquisitions of useful knowledge frequently met with, and which were made under the most discouraging circumstances. A proper course of female education cannot be completed in that period to which it has been limited by fashion, when the mind is yet unsettled and tender, when books are laid aside for the toilet and the sweets of academic life are exchanged for a round of fashionable pleasures. Having once embarked into life, where either a round of gay amusements, or a multiplicity of domestic cares crowd themselves upon the attention, ladies have but a little time to devote to mental improvement, and repair those losses which neglect of youth may have occasioned. Give them an education suited to their rank in society; instil into their minds the principles of virtue and morality, and endow them with a knowledge of polite literature for which the female mind seems admirably adapted, and you prepare them for any situation in life to which they may be called. Ornaments to their families and the country, they become companions for men of cultivated minds liberal and chaste in their ideas, they are alike the friends of every society in which virtue and taste are respected.

Parents must certainly be insensible of the injustice they do their daughters, by neglecting their education, or in other words prescribing a course to be completed by the time they have reached the twelfth or thirteenth year of their age—It is at this season above all others which should be assiduously devoted to study, and which would be particularly favorable to their advancement. A few years more of application under the superintendence of able instructors would prepare them to step forward into society under circumstances of far greater advantage to themselves, and would enable them to acquire a character far more valuable than the ephemeral admiration which is elicited by beauty and external accomplishments.

CONNECTICUT.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

Gentlemen of the council,

Mr. Speaker, and

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

The circumstances under which we are now convened to deliberate on the concerns of the state, are peculiarly auspicious. Peace and tranquility; general health; and a genial season, favoring the exertions or unusual industry, have been suc-

ceeded by ample rewards. While these blessings demand expressions of gratitude to the kind Disposer of events, they encourage benevolent dispositions towards each other, and united exertions to advance the prosperity of our constituents.

Since the last meeting of the legislature, propositions have been received from the states of New-Jersey, and Kentucky, for amending the constitution of the United States, which will be submitted to your consideration.

Information has been received, that the ordinance department of the United States, is prepared to deliver the proportions of arms and equipments, to which this state is entitled, by an act of congress. I have accordingly directed the quartermaster-general, to adopt the requisite measures for effecting a settlement of our accounts to the close of the year 1816. An offer has been made to deliver in artillery a proportion of the value of what may be found due. There being no authority to assent to this proposal, the subject is submitted to your consideration.

Among the matters which, at the last session, were presented to the consideration of the legislature, those concerning the judicial department, and the equalization of the system of taxation, are of vital importance to people. A lasting title to the gratitude of our constituents will be acquired, if safe and equitable principles shall be established on these interesting subjects. The legislature has wisely provided for an investigation of, and a report on the subject of taxation, but as the completion of a proper system will require time and profound reflection, I venture to express a hope, that no apparent difficulties will deter you from pursuing it, with that perseverance and impartiality, which its importance demands. As the expenses of supporting the state poor, annually amount to a considerable sum, and under the operation of the present system, may be expected to increase, I recommend that the provisions on this subject be revised.

It appears to be deserving of consideration, whether an inquiry ought not to, be instituted into the condition, management, and legal provisions which respect New-Gate prison, and whether consistently with justice, humanity, and the public security, some beneficial reforms cannot be adopted.

Agriculture being a primary and most important interest of the state, it is the duty of the legislature, not only to protect its industrious members from disproportionate burdens, but to facilitate to them, the discoveries and improvements of modern times. As great numbers of our intelligent citizens migrate from the state, as it receives but few accessions of enterprising strangers, it has resulted that agricultural knowledge has been depressed below what ought to exist in a state highly distinguished for science and improvements in the arts. The incorporation of an agricultural association, whose duty it should be to collect and disseminate printed tracts on the various branches of rural economy, might, by stimulating emulation, speedily produce highly important consequences to the community.

A practice has prevailed in the other states, of rewarding, by honorary tokens, such of their native citizens as have performed meritorious services for their country. If it should be judged expedient, for this state to adopt this practice, commodore Isaac Hull, who obtained the first of those brilliant victories, which signalized the late

war; appears, on the score of public and private virtue, to be eminently entitled to such a distinction.

The state of public opinion unequivocally proves that a momentous responsibility is devolving on the legislature. I hope that it will not be thought unsuitable if I invite you to cultivate a spirit of conciliation and good will towards each other, and among all the people of the state.

Let it be remembered, that the government of Connecticut, was formed on the principles of, and according to the model devised by illustrious men, who were republicans in principle, and who attempted to establish a democratic republic in England. Though their exertions were unsuccessful in that country, yet it is to the laws and regulations which they formed, that the British nation has been principally indebted, for its power, wealth, and renown; and for what yet remains of civil liberty. In New-England the systems established by our founders, have prevailed, with eminent advantage to the people; and in Connecticut, they have remained, without any essential change, till the present time, during a period, in which governments of a different structure have been subverted, and the civilized world convulsed to its foundation. Antecedent to, and during the revolutionary war, and in all the consultations which ensued for the establishment of American freedom, Connecticut performed no inglorious part, both in the council, and in the field, and has secured a title to the respect and gratitude of the nation. It is natural and just that institutions which have produced so much honor and advantage, should be objects of veneration and attachment; and if, as may be admitted, some changes are expedient to adapt our government to the principles of a more enlightened age than that in which it was formed, and to reconcile it with the institutions which surround us, and by which our interests are necessarily affected, still we are bound to recollect, that whatever is of common concern, ought to be adjusted by mutual consultations, and friendly advice; that party spirit and sinister interests ought to be wholly excluded from influence; that it is the duty of reformers to repair and improve, not to subvert and destroy; that passion is a dangerous counselor; and that by the wise constitution of our nature, nothing which is violent or unjust, can be permanent.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

General Assembly, October Session, 1817.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FIRST VOYAGE TO CHINA

Soon after the close of our revolutionary war, some of our enterprising citizens began to turn their minds towards opening a commerce with the oriental world, and actually fitted out in the following year two or three vessels for the East Indies and China. In the autumn of 1785, captain Truxton, since commodore Truxton, after bringing home Dr. Franklin from his embassy to France, via. England, in company with several other gentlemen of this city, equipped a very fine ship, which they called the Canton, for an expedition to China, with which he sailed the ensuing February.

This being the first ship from the port of Philadelphia, destined for that empire, suspicions were

entertained that a jealousy might be excited in some of the European East India Companies. Congress furnished him with a letter of hospitality, in the following style, which we have taken from an old newspaper. It will be well to observe that this voyage proved prosperous, and led to a beneficial trade to those distant regions, and that captain Truxton continued it for five successive voyages, visiting all the principal ports in India, and trading also to Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Batavia, &c. &c. until called to a command in the navy of the United States in 1794, at its commencement.

New-York, January 10, 1786.

(13) In congress, Monday, January 2, 1786—On motion of Mr. Petit, seconded by Mr. King, resolved, that a letter be granted to the ship Canton, Thomas Truxton, master, in the form following:—

Most serene, serene, most puissant, puissant, high, illustrious, noble, honorable, venerable, wise and prudent emperors, kings, republics, princes, dukes, earls, barons, lords, burgomasters, counsellors, as also, judges, officers, justiciaries, and regents, of all the good cities and places, whether ecclesiastical or secular, who shall see these presents or hear them read—

We, the United States in congress assembled, make known, that Thomas Truxton, captain of the ship called the Canton, is a citizen of the United States of America, and that the ship which he commands belongs to the citizens of the said United States; and as we wish to see the said Thomas Truxton prosper in his lawful affairs, our prayer is to all the before mentioned, and to each of them separately, where the said Thomas Truxton shall arrive with his vessel and cargo, that they may please to receive him with goodness, and treat him in a becoming manner, permitting him upon the usual tolls and expenses in passing and re-passing, to pass, navigate and frequent the ports, passes, and territories, to the end, to transact his business where and in what manner, he shall judge proper, whereof we shall be willingly indebted. In testimony whereof, we have caused the seal of the United States of America to be hereunto affixed.

(Witness)

DAVID RAMSAY,

Chairman of congress in the absence of his excellency, John Hancock, President, this second day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty six, and of our sovereignty and independency the tenth.

(*Phil. Political Reg.*)

PEACE SOCIETY.

Correspondence between the Massachusetts Peace Society and the Emperor of Russia and Prince Gallitzin.

FROM THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY TO THE EMPEROR.

Brighton, (near Boston,) April 9, 1817.

SIR—The friendly disposition which you have manifested in favor of the Christian religion and the peace of the world has encouraged this address. The very week in which the Holy League of the three sovereigns was officially announced in Russia, a society was formed in Boston, by the name of the Massachusetts Peace Society, the object of which is to disseminate the very principles avowed in the wonderful alliance, and to do whatever may lawfully be done to pre-

vent the recurrence of war, and to promote peace on earth and good will among men.

I take the liberty to present a copy of all the publications which have been circulated by the society. From these you may obtain information of the state of the society, the number of its members at the close of the first year, and its prospects. The first annual report, and the list of officers and members, are contained in the seventh number of the *Friend of Peace*. Many members have since been added—a new society has since been formed in the state of New-York. At least four Peace Societies have been organized in the United States—others are about forming. Besides these, we have in our country nearly 1000 congregations of Friends or Quakers, which we regard as so many Peace Societies by profession and practice.

The pamphlets your majesty will be pleased to accept, as a token of the veneration and esteem in which your character is held by the friends of peace in this country.

In behalf of the Massachusetts Peace Society,

NOAH WORCESTER, *Cor. Sec.*

His Majesty, ALEXANDER, Emperor of all the Russias.

THE EMPEROR'S ANSWER.

SIR—Your letter in behalf of the Massachusetts Peace Society, with the books accompanying it, were received. The object which this Philanthropic Institution has in view, the dissemination of the principles of peace and amity among men, meets with my cordial approbation. My endeavors to promote peace and good will among the nations are already known; and the power and influence which Almighty God has committed to me, shall ever be employed, I trust, in striving to secure to the nations the blessings of that peace which they now enjoy.

Considering the object of your society, the promotion of peace among mankind, as one so eminently congenial to the spirit of the gospel of Jesus Christ, I have judged it proper to express these my sentiments respecting your labors, in answer to your communication to me on this subject.

ALEXANDER.

To REV. NOAH WORCESTER, *Sec. of Massachusetts Peace Society.*

St. Petersburg, July 4, 1817.

LETTER TO PRINCE GALLITZIN.

Brighton, (near Boston,) April 9, 1817.

SIR—Your name is known and revered in America as the president of the Russian Bible Society. The confidence which your excellent official letters have inspired, induces me to send, for your perusal, all the publications which have been circulated by the Massachusetts Peace Society. Similar copies will accompany these for your worthy emperor. The noble ground which he has taken in the Holy League, has greatly encouraged the hearts of the friends of peace in this country. As the pamphlets will give you information of the prospects of the Peace Society, I shall only express the hope which is entertained, that your name will be enrolled among the avowed friends of peace, and there shine with as great lustre as it has done among the presidents of National Bible Societies.

NOAH WORCESTER, *Cor. Sec. M. P. S.*

His Excellency Prince ALEXANDER GALLITZIN.

ANSWER OF PRINCE GALLITZIN.

SIR—I received your letter of the 9th April, with the numbers of the *Friend of Peace* accompanying

it, by the hands of Mr. Parsons; for which I return you my hearty thanks. The object which your Society has in view, is of great importance to the well being and happiness of the human race. Indeed it seems to me to be almost the same as that of Bible Societies; for it is only in proportion as the divine and peaceable principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ prevail in the hearts of men, that lasting and universal peace can be expected. A blessed period is promised in the word of God, when men shall learn the art of war no more. This period I understand to be the same as that in which it is prophesied that all men shall know the Lord, even from the least unto the greatest, and that the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord. These latter promises seem to be daily fulfilling in every quarter of the world, by the exertion of Bible and other Christian Societies, to disseminate among men the saving and pacific principles of Jesus Christ. They are preparing the way for your Society's gaining its object—peace—universal peace—when men shall learn the art of war no more. Most earnestly praying for every blessing to accompany your labor, in promoting peace on earth and good will among men, I shall reckon it a peculiar honor to be among the members of such a humane Society. I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

PRINCE ALEXANDER GALLITZIN.

To reverend NOAH WORCESTER, *Secretary of Massachusetts Peace Society.*

St. Petersburg, July 4, 1817.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Massachusetts Peace Society, September 25, the foregoing correspondence was communicated, and by them ordered to be published. If the editors of newspapers shall see fit to republish it, the officers of the Peace Society will be gratified, and, it is hoped, that the cause of peace, will be promoted.

THE FRENCH CHURCH.

The affairs of the Gallican church have been at last definitively adjusted. The following is the convention agreed to between his holiness the pope and the king of France relative to that subject.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

Convention between Pius VII. and Louis XVIII. King of France and Navarre.

The sovereign pontiff and his most christian majesty, feeling an ardent desire that the calamities which have for so many years afflicted the church, should terminate in France, and that religion should be placed on the lofty station which ought to be assigned to it, on the happy return of the grandson of St. Louis to the throne of his ancestors, have resolved to enter into a solemn convention, with the proper reserve, as to the enlargement of the interests of the Catholic Religion, &c. &c.

Art. 1. The concordat between Leo X. and Francis I. is confirmed.

2. That of the 15th July, 1801, is annulled.

3. The articles published on the 8th of April, 1812, at the same time with the concordat of July 1801, are abrogated so far as they are inconsistent with the canonical law.

4. The dignities which were suppressed by the Bull of the 29th of September, 1801, are under certain restrictions, re-established.

5. The archbishoprics and bishoprics erected in 1801, are preserved.

6. The preceding article is not to preclude particular exceptions.

7. The Dioceses existing as well as the new ones created, are to be circumscribed for their better administration.

8. The old and new bishoprics are to be endowed under such liberal circumstances as the funds of the state will allow.

9. His holiness and most christian majesty are aware of the distresses that afflict the church of France, and the Bull of his holiness will be published as soon as possible, for the new management of the Dioceses.

10. Refers to the intention of his holiness and his majesty to restore order to the church.

11. Refers to the ancient Abbeys.

12. Refers to the restoration of the Concordat of 1789.

13 and 14. Refer to the ratification of this arrangement, which is signed by

Cardinal HERCULES GONSADOL.
BLACAS D'AULPS.

Declaration of the Envoy Extraordinary of his most christian majesty :

His most christian majesty having learnt, with great pain, that some articles of the constitutional charter which he has conferred on his subjects, have appeared to his holiness contrary to the laws of religion, and to the religious sentiments which his majesty has never ceased to profess—penetrated also with regret that such an interpretation should have been put on that charter, and anxious to remove every difficulty as to such an affair, the undersigned is commanded to explain the royal intentions to his holiness. For this purpose he is authorised to protest, in the name of his majesty, and according to the sentiments which belong to the eldest son of the church, that, after having declared the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Religion to be that of the state, it was incumbent upon his majesty to declare to all those his subjects, who professed those other persuasions established in France, the free exercise of religion, and to secure that liberty by the charter and the oaths of the sovereign. But this oath does not extend to any of the dogmas or laws of the church; and relates only to the civil constitution of affairs, and so the undersigned is authorised to proclaim. Such is the engagement the king has made; and such he is determined to maintain. In swearing obedience to the charter, and to the laws of the Realm, his majesty subtracts nothing from the laws of God and the church, &c. &c.

The undersigned has the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) BLACAS D'AULPS.

Rome, July 15, 1817.

[Communicated for the Charleston Courier.]

The following is the copy of a letter from general Washington, to Dr. Cochran, director general of the military hospitals during our revolutionary war. It was obtained from the son of Dr. Cochran, and its authenticity can be vouched for. It will serve to remove the reproach that has been sometimes cast upon the General, of his possessing a cold and unsocial temper. The style of the letter is playful and lively, and exhibits great goodness and sincerity of disposition.

West-Point, August 16, 1779.

Dear Doctor—I have asked Mrs. Cochran and Mrs. Livingston to dine with me to-morrow—but ought I not to apprise them of their fare?

As I hate deception, even where the imagination only is concerned, I will.

It is needless to promise that my table is large enough to hold the ladies—of this they had ocular proof yesterday. To say how it is usually covered is rather more essential, and this shall be the purport of my letter.

Since my arrival at this happy spot, we have had a ham, sometimes a shoulder of bacon, to grace the head of the table—a piece of roast beef adorns the foot, and a small dish of greens or beans (almost imperceptible) decorates the centre. When the cook has a mind to cut a figure, (and this, I presume, he will attempt to do to-morrow) we have two beef-steak pies or dishes of crabs in addition, one on each side of the centre dish, dividing the space, and reducing the distance between dish and dish to about six feet, which without them would be nearly twelve a part. Of late he has had the surprising luck to discover that apples will make pies; and its a question, if, amidst the violence of his efforts, we do not get one of apples, instead of having both of beef.

If the ladies can put up with such entertainment, and submit to partake of it on plates once tin, but now iron, (not become so by the labor of scouring) I shall be happy to see them.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

To Dr. John Cochran.

THE BEAUTIFUL ALBINESS.

The female known in England and upon the continent of Europe by this appellation, has lately arrived in Quebec, and intends to visit the United States.—The race of Albinos is separated into two denominations; the first are the white negroes of Africa, who have light hair, blue eyes, and a white body, resembling Europeans when viewed at a distance, but upon a nearer approach the whiteness is pale and livid; the second are those Europeans who have pink or red eyes, and white or nearly white hair, eye-brows and lashes. The instances upon record of the existence of the European Albinos, are not numerous. Two boys of Chamouni are mentioned by M. Saussure, the iris of whose eyes was rose colored, and the pupil when viewed in the light appeared red. In their infancy their hair, eye-brows, eye-lashes and the down of their skin were very fine and of a perfect milk white; but at the age of 20 or 25 the hair was of a reddish cast and more strong. M. Bazzi, surgeon to the hospital at Milan, dissected a peasant in 1784, of about 30 years of age, of this description of persons for the purpose of accounting for the physiological peculiarities of their conformation. A fact related by this surgeon seems to throw some light upon the subject—"A woman of Milan had seven sons, of whom the eldest and the two youngest had brown hair and black eyes, and the other three had white skins, white hair and red eyes."

The name of the subject of this article is Harvey: and she was born of English parents at a town in Essex within 40 miles of London.—They had six children, three of whom inherited the same dark complexion with themselves, and three, including the Albiness, were of the same extraordinary appearance. She is about 18 years old, and her two brothers were in the year 1816 ex-

hibited with her at the fair of Harlem. Her hair* is most wonderful, it resembles the appearance of that of the beautiful Angola goat, excepting in point of length. It has a beautiful glossy texture; but is rather coarse, and she preserves its beauty by frequently immersing it in warm water, and never uses either comb or brush. Her eyes are apparently in a state of continual motion, over which she has no control, and at a distance appear to be almost a bright crimson, which color softens as you approach her (and change the focus of light) into a soft Indian pink, or mixture of rose color and lilac. Her countenance is animated and pleasing, notwithstanding the paleness of her complexion, and white eye-brows and eye-lashes.

Her manners and conversation are reported to be well bred and accomplished—and her demeanor distinguished by modesty and feminine dignity. She speaks French fluently and is said to sing with taste.

The eyes of this race of beings are so weak that they cannot endure the light of a bright day, and yet when the moon shines they can see as keenly as ordinary human eyes can, in a perfect light—They are altogether destitute of that black membrane called the uvea; the iris is perfectly white and the pupil of a rose color.

"The whiteness of the skin and hair is ascribed by M. Bazzi to the absence of the rete mucosum which in his judgment, gives color to the cuticle and the hairs that are scattered over it. In proof of this opinion he alledges a well known fact that if the skin of the blackest horse be any where accidentally destroyed, the hair which afterwards grows will be perfectly white, because the rete mucosum is never regenerated with the skin."

* A lock of it has been presented to the Boston Athenæum.

The Ravages of War.—Wars have, in all ages, been a dreadful scourge to mankind. But history exhibits none so sanguinary and destructive as those engendered by the ever to be deplored French revolution, particularly those waged by Bonaparte after his accession to supreme power.

A French writer of eminence calculated the destruction of men in those wars as follows:

1. The war of St. Domingo in 1801,	
Soldier and sailors,	60,000
Whites of the Island,	50,000
Negroes,	50,000
	160,000
2. The war with England, from 1802 to 1814,	200,000
3. The Invasion of Egypt,	60,000
4. The Winter campaign of 1805-6,	150,000
5. The campaign of Calabria, from 1805 to 1807,	50,000
6. The war of the north, from 1806 to 1807,	300,000
7. The war of Spain from 1807 to 1813, (French and allies, English, Spaniards and Portuguese),	2,100,000
8. The war of Germany and Poland in 1809,	300,000
9. The campaign of 1812,	
French and allies,	500,000
Russians,	300,000
Poles, &c.	200,000
	1,000,000
10. The campaign of 1813,	450,000
Making a total of upwards of 5,000,000 of the human race.	

(Mont. Mer.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Mitchell, dated New York, September 1, to a gentleman in Washington City.

"Yesterday general David Humphreys favored me with a visit, and read to me his memoir on the great animal which has lately appeared in the ocean near the coast of Massachusetts. He has been there, and has collected the evidence with great care: I think it certain that a huge marine serpent has presented himself to view, and that the inhabitants made all the exertions that skill and intrepidity could devise to overcome him. The testimony registered by this learned gentleman countenances the belief that there may have been three individuals of the species near Gloucester and Cape Ann at the same time.—But, if they should escape, science may rejoice that every fact and circumstance of any moment is distinctly stated, and will be faithfully recorded. As much as could be gathered concerning the appearance, magnitude, form, color, habits, manners and peculiarities of this extraordinary visitor, has been perspicuously written by the general, whose narrative will be an instructive document both for our contemporaries and successors. After we had condoled on the loss that Zoology had sustained by the creature's escape, I requested my friend and the other persons present to examine a sea serpent belonging to my collection. It is a real *Laticauda*, or flat-tailed snake of the sea; and was brought from Guadaloupe. Specimens of this sort are not, to my knowledge, very frequent in our museums, I will, therefore give you a description of this, which is probably the *Platane a bandes of Daudin* and the *Laticauda scutata of Laurenti*. It lives in the waters of the sea, like the other kinds called *Hydrophis* and *Pelamides*. The length is rather less than eighteen inches.—The figure is delicate and well proportioned, the color black and whitish, in alternate zones or bands. Of these the whitish may be considered as the ground or proper complexion, and the black as the variegation. The dark circles or rings are thirty-two in number, and about one fourth of an inch broad; the white zones if such they may be called, amount to thirty-three and are rather wider. There is a black stripe on each side of the lower jaw, which communicates with the second band around the neck. The back, head and neck are scaly, and the belly shielded. The scales cover the head, neck and throat, as far as the posterior edge of the second black band. The scales on the belly are single, and their number is two hundred and forty; those on the tail are double, and amount to forty pair. The tail is flat, like the blade of an oar; and an artist who should fashion one after this model would work to the best advantage. It differs from that of the eel, and most other fish, in being destitute of fins and rays. It is three furrowed (*tri-sulcata*) on both sides and rounded at the extremity. The head is smooth though scaly—the scales larger than those on the body. The mouth has no fangs, nor many teeth of any kind: the animal is, therefore, not venomous.

The tail is admirably adapted to scull the body along; which is the more necessary for a water serpent that has no fins. I gave general Humphreys a further confirmation of the existence of Oceanic serpents, by exhibiting the vertebrae and teeth of one dug out of a hill near Murfrees-

borough, from the bank of the Meherrin river in North Carolina in 1816. A single joint of the back bone weighs twelve pound and a half, and the two teeth one pound each.—The teeth are triangular, having a base of 4½ inches, and sides of six inches. There are enormous relics, parts of a skeleton at least forty feet long, naturally buried in gravelly stratum, abounding with the shells of clams and scallops, sixty miles from the ocean at Currituck, and disinterred by digging away the ground for the construction of a mill. Captain Neville from whom I receive them, described to me the curious spectacle of the soil overspread with such huge remains of an animal perhaps like the one now alive and sporting in his element, and exciting the admiration of our citizens. We are in an age of successful inquiry, and I hope this communication will aid your researches.

Magnetism of the Solar Beam—Professor Morcchini, of Rome, having discovered the magnetizing power of the violet rays of the prismatic spectrum, the Marquis Ridolsi, has succeeded in magnetising two needles, the one in 30 the other in 46 minutes, and can now charge with the magnetic power, by the same process, as many needles as he pleases. The needles thus magnetized (namely, by directing on and passing over them, for a period of not less than 30 minutes, the violet rays of the spectrum of a condensing lens) possesses all the energy and the properties of needles magnetized in a common way by means of a loadstone. Their *homonymous* poles repel, while the *heteronymous* poles attract, each other; and made to vibrate on a pivot, their point turns constantly to the north, their heads to the south! This adds to the wonders of the magnetism, and must be regarded as a very extraordinary discovery.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

RUSSIA.

Late accounts say the emperor Alexander was on the eve of leaving St. Petersburg for 18 months, on a tour of inspection through the southern provinces of his immense dominions.

The differences between the Turks and Russians are likely to be amicably settled, and a negotiation is said to be on foot for engaging the sublime porte to permit the free passage of the Dardanelles to all vessels paying a moderate duty.

St. Petersburg, July 31.—An event which took place on the 21st last month, in the environs of Abo, has created great alarm among the inhabitants. On that day, towards noon, the ground of a village, 22 versts from that city, suddenly sunk to the depth of many fathoms, and dragged with it twelve houses, which were completely submerged, (preserving however their situation) so that no trace of them could be discovered. A similar falling in of the earth occurred in the same place in 1755 and '88. Among other causes, this phenomenon is ascribed to the swampy marsh upon which the village is built, and to the river which flows through it. The accident has occasioned great loss to the inhabitants.

NETHERLANDS.

The king of the Netherlands has appointed commissioners to negotiate a commercial treaty with America. The conferences have been opened at the Hague.

FRANCE.

Lyons.—Accounts by the way of England, represent this city to be in a state of insurrection, "equalling in atrocity and violence the most sanguinary scenes of the revolution" and that marshal Marmont had been appointed to the command of the 19th military division, of which Lyons was to be his head quarters.

SICILY.

Extract of a letter from William Porter Esq. Consul of the United States at Palermo, dated June 20th, 1817.

Piracy and Murder.—You will probably have read in the newspapers, before this reaches you, an account of the piracy and diabolical murders committed by six abandoned wretches, about six weeks ago, on the north of this island.—If however you should not have seen any statement of this cold blooded business, the following may serve.

These miscreants armed themselves at Messina, with muskets, sabres and long knives, and proceeded to a place three or four miles distant from that city, where they stole a small row boat and embarked themselves, taking a direction towards Melazza, (thirty-five miles on the coast west of Messina,) near which place, in the afternoon, they took a station for the purpose of seizing upon a small vessel, they knew to be ready to sail from Messina for this place, and on board of which they likewise knew of several passengers on whom they supposed money might be found. Soon after the approach of this vessel, these wretches, apparently as fishermen, rowed towards her, and at about half past seven o'clock, being within the reach of musket shot, a volley was fired into her. Shortly after they boarded her, and in a few minutes murdered and mutilated every person on board. Of the murdered were twelve men, one woman and one child: and of the mutilated and left for dead, were three men and two women. One of the twelve men, the woman and the child were of one family. To the woman two alternatives were offered, one of which was instant death, which she preferred. They then searched for money and other things; and actually, with all this carnage before their eyes, cooked victuals, and partook of a supper, and remained on board the vessel until the next morning.

In a few days afterwards these same wretches took another small vessel, only a few miles distant from this harbor, bound to one of the Lepari Islands, and after murdering three men, drove the remaining six under deck, nailed down the hatches, and bored holes for the purpose of sinking her, and left her; fortunately, however, a small boy, who in the confusion had covered himself with one of the sails, and was not discovered by the villains, was able with the assistance of those below, to uncover the hatchway, and the vessel was kept above water until assistance was rendered by some fishermen.

The day after this second butchery, the villains landed at one of the King's tunny fish establishments, about 10 miles from this city, and retreated to the mountains. It was not possible, however, that such monsters should long escape being apprehended. The orders of his royal highness, the hereditary prince, were prompt on the occasion; and the measures immediately taken did away the possibility of their escaping from the Island. In a few days after, four of them were ap-

prehended in this city; one has since been found in Messina, and the other in a mountain, near Catania.

The whole six were this morning exposed to the view of the inhabitants of Palermo. They have confessed their crimes, and have nothing now to wait for, but the justice of this world, and the world to come.

SWEDEN.

Two of the Swedish literati, Dr. Rugellen and professor Irah, have been sentenced to imprisonment, one for life, for having drank the health of Gustavus Vth, as king of Sweden.

This connected with some other events, seems to indicate, that Sweden is not unanimous in her wishes to have the most fortunate of the old French marshals (Bernadotte) to rule over her. A few facts may explain who the health drinkers designated as their future sovereign. Gustavus Adolphus was king of Sweden until 1809, when he abdicated his throne. His son, Gustavus, who is the nephew of the empress of Russia—and now educating under her auspices—is denominated in some of the European Callenders, as prince royal of Sweden; and if he should succeed to the throne would be Gustavus Vth. On the death of the present king of Sweden, Charles XII. (now in his 70th year) it is not improbable, that the young Gustavus will put in his claim to the throne. He is near eighteen years old—of age to reign, according to the usages of Europe. On the other hand, Bernadotte is acknowledged by Sweden, and most of the other powers of Europe, as prince royal of Sweden; and heir apparent to the crown; and having the chief command of the army, and being at the head of the councils of Sweden, will no doubt take measures to have himself proclaimed king; and have the oaths of allegiance to himself taken by all the people. He has already installed his son Oscar, now nearly eighteen years old, as Vice roy of Norway. When the peace of Europe is again disturbed, it probably will be on account of the affairs of Sweden.

ENGLAND.

A New Picture.—That distinguished American Artist, now residing in London, Washington Alston Esq. is engaged upon a new painting which both for design and composition is supposed to be the most successful of his efforts. The subject is this. Belshazzar, King of Babylon, is placed at the head of his profane feast, in company with the Bacchanals the princes and ladies of his court, when the moving hand points out the writing on the palace wall, oraculously announcing the destruction of the king, and kingdom. the artist selects the moment when Belshazzar, his dimensions shrunk up with horror at the miraculous and portentous omen, has "*his countenance changed,*" the "*joints of his loins loosed,*" and "*his knees smiting each other,*" whilst the attention of the company, arrested from their orgies, is arrested for a moment, and their expressions and attitudes, admirably delineated by the painter. The subject is excellent—and would seem to be well suited to the display of the peculiar and original genius of Mr. Alston.

London, Sept. 2.—Doctor Oliphant Gregory and captain Mudge, who, as our readers will recollect, formed a part of the scientific association which quitted Aberdeen for the Zetland Isles, a few weeks ago, have just returned from thence. Captain Colby and Mr. Biot remain in Zetland a few weeks longer: the former for the purpose of terminating his observations with Ramsden's Ze-

nith Sector, and then of connecting the chief points in the triangulation; the latter in order to witness the phenomena of the Aurora Boreales in these high latitudes. Doctor Gregory, having ascertained what is technically denominated "*the rate*" of Fennington's Astronomical Clock at Balta, in north latitude 60, 45, proposes staying a short time at Aberdeen, for the purpose of ascertaining the rate of the same clock there, by means of astronomical observations with the excellent instruments in the observatory, at Marischal college. Those with similar experiments, to be subsequently repeated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and M. Biot's experiments on pendulums in Unst, at Leith, and France, will furnish some important data in reference to the figure of the terrestrial spheroid, and the variations of gravity or different parts of its surface.

Providential Escape.—On Monday night last, the Redcar coach, which runs between that place and Bedale, meeting the Leeds and other coaches at Northallerton, arrived on its return to Redcar, without any driver; and when the circumstances of the case are related, the escape of the coach-passengers must be considered as miraculous indeed. At some distance from Guisborough, the passengers (an elderly lady and the reverend Charles Clapham,) perceiving that the coach went at an unusually slow rate, called out to the driver, but he was not at his post. He had dropped off, somewhat intoxicated, but was able to resume his seat, and continued to drive on for several miles. A different spirit was however soon manifested by the spirited nags; the passengers found themselves proceeding on at a furious rate; the driver was again absent, but nothing but the course adopted could, perhaps, have saved their lives. The female was greatly alarmed; but Mr. Clapham, with great caution and coolness, let down the windows, and exhorted his fellow passengers to sit still. In this way the horses dragged the vehicle, at a furious rate, for above two miles, over a bridge only wide enough to allow a single carriage to pass—making several dangerous turns, and actually arrived safe in the inn-yard, at Redcar, without the slightest injury to the passengers, horses, or coach.

Sept. 6.—*EXPEDITION TO AFRICA.*—We are sorry to state the death of captain Campbell, the able and zealous commander of this unfortunate, but well meant endeavor to explore the interior of Africa. A letter from Sierra Leone, of June 30, states that intelligence of the loss had arrived at that place, a few days before. Capt. Campbell was reported to have died of a broken heart, and the expedition was expected to return. The second naval officer in command, who had been left at Sierra Leone on account of ill health, but was recovered and on his way to join the expedition, returned to Sierra Leone, on hearing of capt. Campbell's death, to consult the Governor, upon the future conduct of the expedition. A dispatch was immediately sent home to Lord Bathurst.

Yesterday a defaulter was declared on the Stock Exchange for no less a sum than one hundred and sixty thousand consols. He had sold the above sum for Friday, and it seems that this gentleman had not one thousand to deliver; he in consequence sent a letter, stating that it was not quite convenient for him to attend, and hoped his absence would not create any great inconvenience. This defaulter is reported to have taken

out of the Alley upwards of 5000/ within the last six months. Stocks were not affected by this unforeseen failure, as consols commenced the same as they lest off yesterday—for money 80, and at one o'clock were for the account 80½.

A most extraordinary depression has taken place in the value of Exchequer Bills and India Bonds, the former having fallen from 34s. to 21s. premium and the latter from 126s. to 75s. premium.

IRELAND.

A malignant fever is raging through every part of Ireland, and many deaths have taken place.

Among other victims to the destructive fever, is Mr. justice Osborn. His lordship sunk under its attack on the 1st September.

CANADA.

The first frost that materially checked vegetation in the vicinity of Montreal this season, was experienced on the night of the 28th of September. The corn, it is said, was so far advanced in that neighborhood that it received no essential injury.

MEXICO.

Mexico.—From New-Orleans, under date of Sept. 13, we have some gratifying Mexican intelligence. It was extracted from a despatch of Apodaca, dated July 29, to the Spanish cabinet, intercepted at sea by the patriot brig Calypso.—After lamenting the success of Mina, the vice-roy supposes him to be at the head of 7000 men; and it appears that the people are flocking from all quarters to join his standard. General Mina having intercepted a convoy of 1,300,000 dollars, and learning that these funds were the property of several individuals, issued a proclamation, in which he declared that he was not in arms against the people, but against "the beloved Ferdinand," and that all those concerned in the business, might recover their money in his camp, giving proof of their claim. They came, and the money was refunded to them. The vice-roy solicits great reinforcements, stating that he distrusts the troops under his command, as Mina possesses great talent in inducing them to desert. General Torres has formed a junction with Mina. The regiment of Ferdinand VII. had gone over to him with all its arms and effects. A Mexican congress had been called, and Mina named general in chief. It appears that at the date of the vice-roy's despatch Mina was near Uanaxuato, about 30 leagues from Mexico.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

MASSACHUSETTS.

At a court martial lately held at Fort Independence, in the harbor of Boston, of which lieutenant-col. Towson of the light artillery was president, were tried and sentenced to be cashiered, lieutenant E. S. Gantt, and captain Wm. F. Hobart, of the same corps. The former for writing and sending a challenge to fight a duel, to captain John R. Bell, of the same regiment; and the latter for being his second, and bearer of said letter. The proceedings and sentence of the court were approved by the president, but in consequence of a memorial signed by all the officers composing said court to the president, the officers thus cashiered were reinstated in their respective commands.

NEW YORK.

Cannon Foundry at Newberg.—This establishment has but recently got into operation and is now found to exceed the most sanguine expectations. It is an interesting fact, that the ore used is of such unusual good quality as to admit iron field-pieces to be reduced considerably below the weight of brass European field pieces of the same calibre. Repeated trials have been made, which have demonstrated this fact. The expense of iron ordnance is less than one third that of brass, and the iron are much more durable; hence the immense saving is apparent. The bed of ore is inexhaustible, and very conveniently situated.—This establishment on the navigable waters of the Hudson, must be viewed as an important national acquisition.—(N. Y. Col.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Naval Court Martial.—At a general court martial convened at Erie, Pa. on the 11th day of September, 1817, and by adjournment until the 16th day of the same month, of which Robert T. Spence, esquire, a captain in the United States navy, was president, and Ralph Marlin, esquire, judge advocate, DANIEL S. DEXTER, esquire, a master commandant in the navy of the United States, and the commanding naval officer of the station at Erie, was tried upon charges, and specifications of the same, preferred against him by lieutenant John A. Wish, of the United States navy.

SENTENCE OF THE COURT.

* The court, after maturely deliberating on the testimony in support of the charges and specifications of charges, preferred against Daniel S. Dexter, master commandant U. States navy by lieutenant Wish, unanimously acquit him, in a full and honorable manner; it not appearing to said court that any censure should attach to his conduct as commanding officer.

ROBERT T. SPENCE, President.

BALPH MARLIN, Judge Advocate.

The preceding sentence of the general court martial has been approved, and master commandant Daniel S. Dexter, ordered to reassume the command of the naval station at Erie.

VIRGINIA.

Richmond, October, 10.—We understand, that agreeably to appointment, the first stone of the central college was laid at Charlottesville on Monday last, with all the ceremony and solemnity due to such an occasion. The society of free masons and a large company of citizens attended. The scene was graced by the presence of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, late presidents of the United States, and of James Monroe, the actual president.

GEORGIA.

Florida Indians.—In pursuance of orders issued by the executive, for the purpose of complying with the late requisition of general Gaines, for two battalions of militia, to aid in chastising the refractory Indians in East Florida, a squadron of cavalry and ten companies of infantry, have been detached from the counties of Hancock, Washington, Baldwin, Putnam, Morgan, Twiggs, Pulaski, Jones and Jasper, who are directed to hold themselves in readiness to assemble, at a short notice, at fort Hawkins, where arms and accoutrements are prepared for their use.

A letter from the commanding officer at fort Scott, of the 13th instant, states, that the Indians

were on that day to give general Gaines their final answer, whether they would deliver up the murderers of our citizens. If they comply with the demand, hostilities will be averted—if not, signal chastisement will be inflicted on them.

We learn by a gentleman direct from Headquarters, (fort Montgomery) that general Gaines, who was then at St. Stephens, intends visiting Georgia in a few days; and that but little expectation appeared to be entertained in that part of the country, of an approaching rupture with the Indians. It is probable, therefore, the troops from this state will not be called into service.

From St. Mary's.—The latest advices from St. Mary's state that the U. S. brig *Saranac* was at Cumberland Island, and that her commander was superintending the erection of a small fort on the south end of the island. The *Saranac* had detained an American schooner on suspicion of her being engaged in smuggling, and had sent her papers to Savannah preparatory to her trial.

OHIO.

Every thing degenerates in America.—In none of the United States perhaps does vegetation advance more rapidly or attain greater perfection than in this state. Our gardens, fields and forests afford daily evidence of this fact—and where horticulture and agriculture are properly attended to, the vegetation almost exceeds belief. We have before us a certificate of *Abner Moore, James Wilson, John Millholland and Wm. Clark*, of the separate and aggregate weight of six pumpkins, the product of one vine, raised on the farm of *William Clark*, of White-water township, Hamilton county, by *George Butcher*, tenant of said Clark, and which weighed as follows: 125lbs 122, 117, 104, 87, 68, together 623lbs. And under the signature of *William Millholland and James Wilson*, we have it also certified, that there have been raised on the same farm, at the same time, by *Wm. Clark*, from the seed the first season, one oxon, weighing 11lbs. 3oz. and measuring 16½ inches in circumference, and many others which measure from 12 to 16 inches.

While the subject is before us, we will add another evidence, for which we can produce the most respectable testimony. There have been CABBAGES exposed for sale in our market at 12½ and 18½ cents each, for several market days past, which are raised in the garden of a gentleman in this city, the solid heads of which measured three, four and five feet each in circumference, after being entirely divested of their outside leaves.—One of these weighed nineteen pounds twelve ounces.

We might here also mention our *peaches* and *apples*; the former the fine large yellow clear stone, measuring seven to ten inches in circumference, and selling at 12½ cents a peck; the latter equally abundant, cheap and delicious; but these are within the view of every one, and therefore do not require further notice.

KENTUCKY.

Winchester September 26, 1817.

Breach of Marriage.—I witnessed in this place, on yesterday, one of the most interesting trials that has ever come under my notice—the circumstances and issue of which, are not only important to the parties concerned, but to society. It was a suit for the breach of a marriage contract, brought by *RACHAEL PATTON*, of Paris, against *JOHN L. MARTIN*, of the same place, and removed to this court by change of venue. As the cir-

cumstances were somewhat peculiar, besides the usual interest which would naturally be excited by such a case, novel as it is in the jurisprudence of this country, a large number of citizens collected to hear the evidence and discussion. The engagement between the parties was clearly proven to have existed some years previous to the unfortunate affair which finally induced the defendant to withdraw his addresses, and refuse to comply with his contract, and which overwhelmed the plaintiff with shame and misery. The defendant attempted to justify his non-compliance, by throwing the guilt of the transaction upon the brother-in-law of the plaintiff. It appeared, however, that for nine months previous to the unfortunate occurrence, this gentleman did not visit the house of Mr. Patton more than two or three times, owing to a misunderstanding subsisting between him and Miss Patton, from the circumstance of his having cautioned her against Martin. Every step taken by the defendant, although ably supported by his counsel, seemed to mark the transaction with a deeper die of deception. The brother-in-law of the plaintiff was fully exculpated from the charges which had been circulated against him; and much sympathy was excited in behalf of the unfortunate plaintiff, whose character previously, was proven by many witnesses to have been of the fairest kind; who had been raised by exemplary and pious parents, and had moved in the first circles.

Mr. Bledsoe concluded the case on the part of the plaintiff, in an eloquent and appropriate address to the jury, in which every feeling of honor and humanity was aroused. He concluded with the eloquent quotation from Goldsmith:

"When lovely woman stoops to folly,
"And finds too late that men betray;
"What charm can soothe her melancholy,
"What art can wash her guilt away?
"The only art her guilt to cover,
"To hide her shame from ev'ry eye;
"To give repentance to her lover,
"And wring his bosom—is to die."

It was near ten o'clock before the jury left the box, and in a few minutes returned with a verdict of three thousand dollars damages.

[We believe there are but two other cases of this sort on record in this state.—In both, exemplary damages were given—ten thousand dollar in one instance.] *Lex. Reporter.*

TENNESSEE.

The following is the official return of votes for governor—

For Mr. M'Minn	28,402
For Mr. Foster	15,460

LOUISIANA.

New-Orleans, Sept. 23.—General recapitulation of the interments which have taken place during the year 1817, in the burying-grounds of this city.

	Catholics.	Protestants.
January,	71	15
February,	60	13
March,	68	13
April,	74	7
May,	67	24
June,	74	17
July,	91	23
August,	174	131

Those who have died at the charity hospital,

are not counted : but it is known that during the month of August, the number amounted to 73.

EDITOR'S CABINET.

The following letter will serve to correct some errors which occurred in the topographical description of the Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, obligingly furnished by doctor SIBLEY, and published in the third number of the present volume of the *National Register*. We embrace this opportunity to tender to our worthy correspondent, our sincere thanks for his kind attention. Our reader will readily correct the errors with their pencils upon the margin of the pages in which they occur.

Natchitoches, Sept. 8, 1817.

SIR—I am complimented by your inserting in your Register the sketch on this Parish I sent you. I should have deemed it unfortunate if the same had have gone into the geographical work you mentioned, with the errors it has in the Register. I will not say they are typographical, for the rough sketches were copied by my son, though I afterwards examined it, I might have overlooked the errors. In the first part, speaking of Red river, it should have said it leaves the Parish at the southeast corner, instead of the northeast. In the lakes on the northeast side of Red river, the lake mentioned after Smith's lake, should have been lake *Poldeau*, (in English Brave lake.) After *Bestino*, instead of *Budka*, it should have been *Badka*. Under minerals, in the sentence "small specimens of the ore," the word *the* should have been omitted. Under diseases, the last of the paragraph, instead of at the water falls, it should have been as the water falls. In the last paragraph on public lands, it should have been towards the *Sabine*, instead of towards the Saline. Instead of the Bayaus Tauzan and Negutt, it should have been *Tauro* and *Negrette*. I am, respectfully,

JOHN SIBLEY.

DELAPLAIN'S REPOSITORY.

Extract of a letter from a friend, now in Philadelphia, dated Oct. 12, 1817.

I have just had the perusal of the second number of this work, containing the portraits and biographies of Peyton Randolph, Thomas Jefferson, John Jay, Rufus King, De Witt Clinton, and Robert Fulton. In point of execution, of the engravings, and fidelity of description the second number is decidedly preferable to the first. And it is not unreasonable to believe, that as the work progresses with an extending patronage, that every future volume will become more valuable and interesting. Though the publisher has chiefly introduced living characters, whose biographies cannot be considered full and completed; yet the facility with which correct information can be ob-

tained, and, the delineations that can be so accurately drawn while those individuals are on the stage of action, seem to argue in favor of this arrangement.

In contemplating the events which have guided the destinies of our nation, we are presented with some of the most illustrious personages that have ever appeared on the theatre of the world. To perpetuate the memory of those whose services may be considered as a national blessing to the remotest posterity; and to serve as a biographical record of authenticated facts relative to those men, whose virtue, wisdom and patriotism have shed lustre on the American character is the object and intention of this publication. Its importance in a national point of view readily presents itself to the mind of every reflecting American.

To preserve from oblivion and guard from the calumnies of the envious and illiberal of other nations, the names and deeds of those who have been so eminently serviceable to their country is a pursuit at once laudable and beneficial.

The publisher of this work appears to have been unbiased by either of the political parties; and to have regarded with impartial justice, worth and merit where they have appeared most conspicuous.

The following is extracted from the Introduction to the present number of the Repository.

Though national pride in some respects runs high in the United States, few seem to be aware of the unexampled magnitude of that space which our country is destined to fill in the eyes of posterity. Not only because the discovery of this quarter of the globe gave a new aspect to the civilized world, but because our revolution forms a cardinal era in the progressive condition of man; this republic must present to after ages one of the grandest spectacles in the history of the world. A variety of circumstances, which it is easier to conceive than to describe, prevent us from judging of the mighty birth which time is to bring forth.

It is then that the history of our times will be interesting:—Let us do all that we can to render it satisfactory, by so filling up our annals as to leave nothing to conjecture.

The work here proposed is intended to go a great way towards effecting that object. I relinquished now, it can scarcely be accomplished hereafter. Men living at this day have it in their power to ascertain from personal knowledge, the truth of the characters, and the fidelity of the various resemblances it is intended to contain; but nature must, in her ordinary course, soon lay them in the dust, and deprive posterity, if the effort were neglected, of the satisfaction arising from their evidence.